

KIDS CATECHISM

Book/Chapter: Romans 11
Category: Basic Christian Doctrine

Date: Week of Nov. 29, 2009
Number: 11

Parent to child(ren): If someone gives you a gift, would it be wrong if they came back later and took it back from you? If a grown up tells you that they have picked you for a part in a play, and comes back to you later and says, "I've changed my mind. I don't want to use you in my play," would that be wrong?

Romans 11 tells us a very wonderful thing about God. God never takes His gifts back! And, God never calls people for a special purpose and then changes His mind and decides not to use them later.

This week, we are going to read and talk about the last chapter in a section of Romans that tells us about a nation called, "Israel" (i.e., the Jews). In chapter 9 (the first chapter of this special section), we learned that God chose Israel for a special purpose. God built a nation through certain of Abraham's descendents. The main reason He did it was to create a people on earth through which He would bring His own Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. The Jews were blessed with that most special purpose! Now none of them were chosen because of anything special about themselves. They were not better than anyone else. They did not earn or deserve this precious gift. It was only by the grace of God that they were called to this special calling and given this priceless gift.

In chapter 10, we learned that many of them (just like the rest of the world), did not put their trust in Jesus as their Savior. They believed, like most of the rest of the world, that they could be saved by what they do. They thought they must be better because God called them and that they would be saved because they were related to Abraham and had been given God's laws. But they were wrong. Most failed to realize that they were sinners too, like the rest of the world, and also needed to receive Jesus to have their sins taken away.

Now, in chapter 11, we will learn another wonderful thing about God. Even though most of Israel did not receive Jesus, God is still not finished with them. Because He called them, He still has plans to do a special work in them in the days to come. This is the big message of this chapter. When God gives a gift, He doesn't take it back. When God calls someone, He never says, "I've changed my mind. I don't want to use you now."

Q51. Many in Israel refused to believe the Good News about Jesus. Has God decided then that He is through with them as a people?

A51. *No!* God still has future plans to do a work in them and to use them (**11:1-2a, 11**).

Q52. Since God still has special plans for Israel, are even those who reject Jesus now saved?

A52. *No!* They too must trust Jesus as their Savior like the rest of the world to be saved. (**11:5-6**)

Q53. Does God still desire to save those in Israel who are still now trying to be saved by their works?

A53. *Yes!* He wants to make them jealous for the wonderful salvation He freely gives to everyone through Jesus so they will stop trying to be saved by what they do (**11:11**) (*cf.*, **John 3:16-18**)

Q54. At what time will God return and finish His work in the nation of Israel?

A54. *No one knows the time.* But not be until His present work of saving souls around the world is finished! (**11:25-27**)

Q55. What does it mean where the Bible says that "the gifts and callings of God are without repentance?"

A55. It means that *God never takes back* what He gives us *and always finishes* what He starts! (**10:19**)

******* *Italicized words* can be used as shortened answers for smaller children. Older children can be helped to understand and learn the full answers.

SCRIPTURES TO HELP YOUR KIDS HIDE IN THEIR HEARTS

KJV

Romans 11:6, "If by grace, then is it (*salvation*) no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

Romans 11:11, "I say then, Have they (*the nation of Israel*) stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy."

Romans 11:29, "For the gifts and callings of God are without repentance."

NLT

Romans 11:6, "And if they are saved by God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's wonderful kindness would not be what it really is--free and undeserved."

Romans 11:11, "Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! His purpose was to make his salvation available to the Gentiles, and then the Jews would be jealous and want it for themselves."

Romans 11:29, "For God's gifts and His call can never be withdrawn."

----- Suggested Memory Work -----

Up to age 6 / answers only (shortened, *italicized* answers)

Ages 7 - 9 / shortened answers plus one scripture

Ages 10-12 / full answers plus one or two scriptures

Ages 13 & up / full answers plus all three scriptures

NOTE TO DADS: At least one day this week, sit and read the "Parent to child(ren) section with your family. Then, read **Romans 11** with them (let those who can take turns and share in the reading). Make sure everyone is using the same translation. Next, go over the questions with them and see how they do just getting the basic idea. After that, help them with the wording of the answers (giving them one Q & A on M-F and encouraging them to memorize the answer is one way you could approach this part). By reading God's Word to them and passing on to them the things God is teaching you at Calvary Chapel, you will be discipling your own family, equipping them to be strong in the Lord and mighty in His Word (see, I John 2:14b)!